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Imagery Analysis Service Notes

3 December 1971

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This publication highlights significant or timely intelligence items derived from photography.

The interpretations in this publication represent preliminary views which are subject to modification in the light of further information and more complete analysis.

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USSR

Truck Mobilization Exercise at Chernyakhovsk

25X1D

A probable practice mobilization of cargo trucks was seen at Chernyakhovsk near the Polish border on [] satellite photography. Approximately 1,400 open-bed cargo trucks, mostly ZIL-150's, were observed in three temporary vehicle parks around the outskirts of the city. This is the largest concentration of this type ever seen in the USSR. The trucks were probably mobilized from nearby towns as part of a ground force exercise. This type of mobilization is needed to meet motor transport requirements during a crisis. Similar mobilizations took place at a number of locations in the USSR during the Czechoslovakian crisis in 1968.

The trucks at Chernyakhovsk were parked in groups of about 80, which is the approximate size of a motor transport company. Most groups had support vehicles consisting of one GAZ-69, one van truck and two POL trucks. An additional 180 trucks of various types were located at nearby ground force installations, which had not been seen occupied since 1968.

Concentrations of trucks to help with harvesting are often seen in the USSR during summer months. These usually contain a wide variety of trucks. By contrast, most of the trucks seen in [] at Chernyakhovsk were of the same type.

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CHINA

Guided Missile Patrol Boat Seen in South China

25X1D

An OSA-class guided missile patrol boat was observed for the first time on satellite photography in the South Sea Fleet in [REDACTED]. The boat was located at Huang-pu Naval Base West, near Canton. The only other OSA sightings in the South Sea Fleet occurred in early [REDACTED] and on manned-aircraft photography in the mid-1960s. OSAs are currently being built in the East Sea Fleet at Shanghai, but there are no indications from photography that they are being constructed in the South Sea Fleet area.

25X1C

25X1D

Guided missile patrol boats in the North Sea Fleet are based at areas with underground berthing facilities. Although no such bases are in operation in the South Sea Fleet, there are areas under construction which could provide this type of berthing facility in the future. [REDACTED]

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25X1B

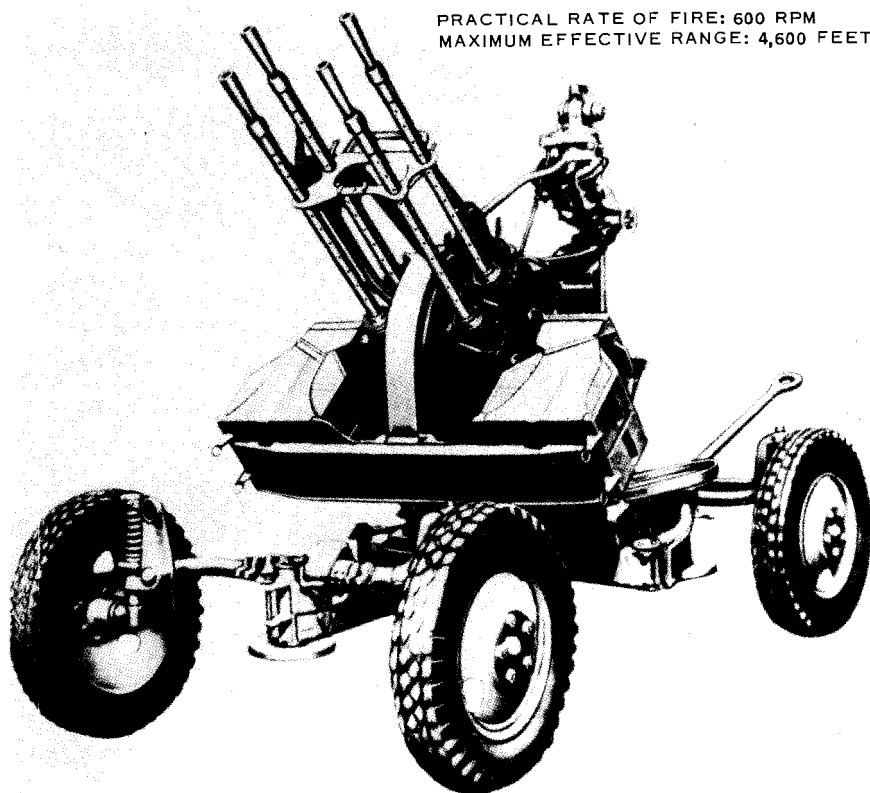
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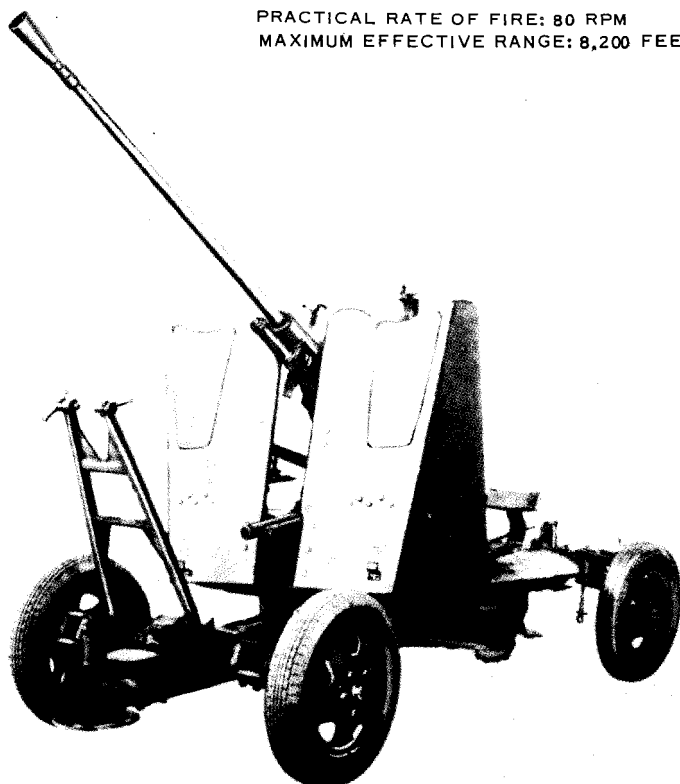
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PRACTICAL RATE OF FIRE: 600 RPM
MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE RANGE: 4,600 FEET

◀
ZPU-4
ANTIAIRCRAFT HEAVY
MACHINE GUN



PRACTICAL RATE OF FIRE: 80 RPM
MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE RANGE: 8,200 FEET

37MM ANTIAIRCRAFT GUN ▶

FIGURE 2. COMPARISON OF ZPU-4 AAHMG AND 37MM AA GUNS.

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CHINA

Mix of Guns Observed in Some AAA Batteries

The Chinese are using guns of two different calibers in some of their antiaircraft batteries. Four AAA batteries, each with four 37mm AA guns and two ZPU-4 AA heavy machine guns, were observed on recent satellite photography at or near installations housing armored units in the Shen-yang and Lan-chou Military Regions. Two of the batteries were field deployed and two were parked in barracks areas. These two weapons are quite different in range and rate of fire and their coordinated use substantially broadens the capabilities of a AAA battery. The ZPU-4 has a rate of fire about seven times that of the 37mm gun, but the 37mm has about twice the maximum effective range of the ZPU-4 (see Figure 2). Both are used to defend against low-altitude attack. The 37mm is normally deployed in six gun batteries and the ZPU-4 in eight or nine gun batteries.

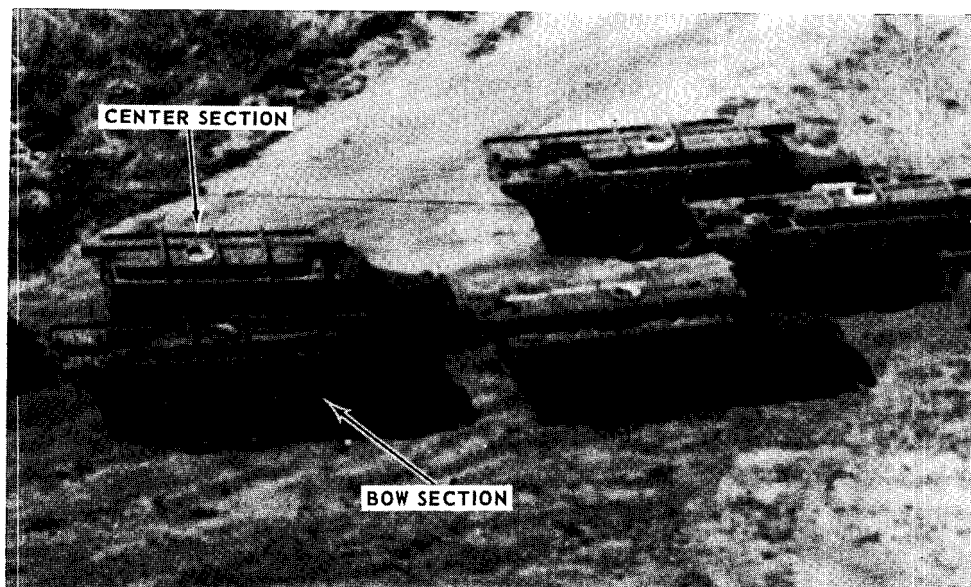
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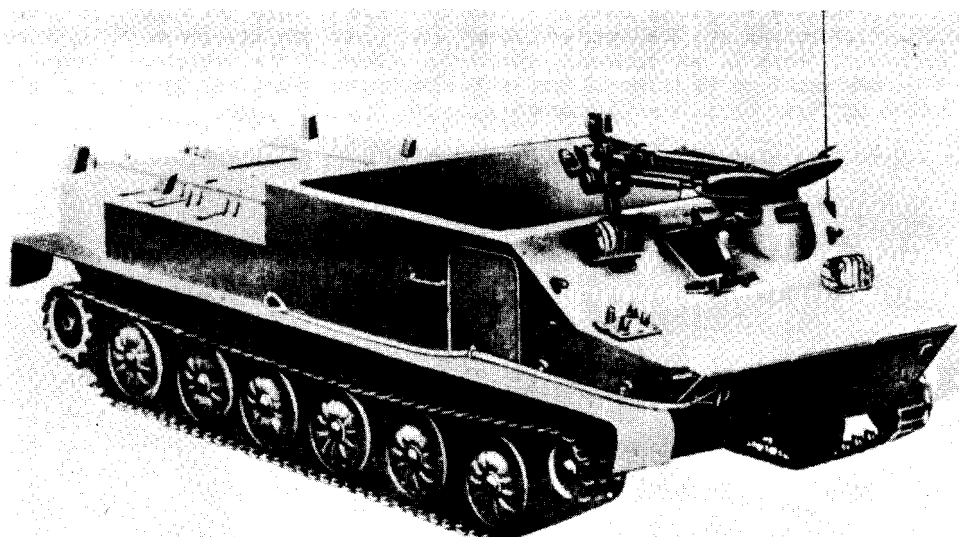
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TPP HEAVY PONTON BRIDGE ON ZIL-151 TRUCK

BTR-50P AMPHIBIOUS ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER



25X1D

FIGURE 3. MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEWLY OBSERVED IN NORTH VIETNAM.

NORTH VIETNAM

New Types of Military Equipment Observed

Military equipment new to the North Vietnamese inventory has been identified at two locations on recent photography (see Map). [] 77 TPP heavy ponton bridge sections and 12 BMK-150 power boats were seen in the Dong Dang storage area, and seven BTR-50P amphibious personnel carriers were observed on flatcars in the Yen Vien Rail Yards. The same types of equipment were seen earlier in the Ping-hsiang Rail Yards in China. On [] photography, 96 bridge sections, two boats and 16 personnel carriers were located at Ping-hsiang.

The Soviet-made bridge sections carry the necessary beams and decking to rapidly assemble a ponton bridge. The BTR-50P is built over the PT-76 tank chassis and can carry three crewmen and 12 passengers (see Figure 3).

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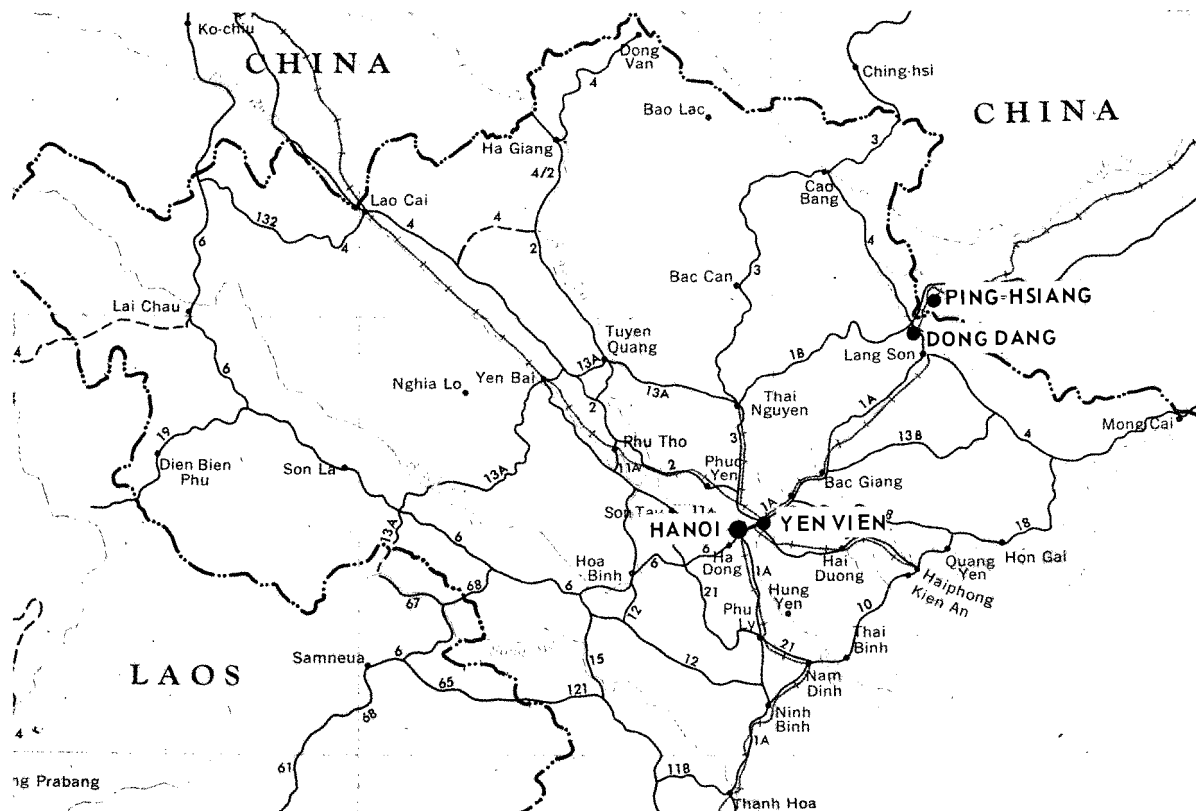


FIGURE 4. LOCATION MAP.

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